# Volume 24,

The Indians Who Rocked the World

Education Guide
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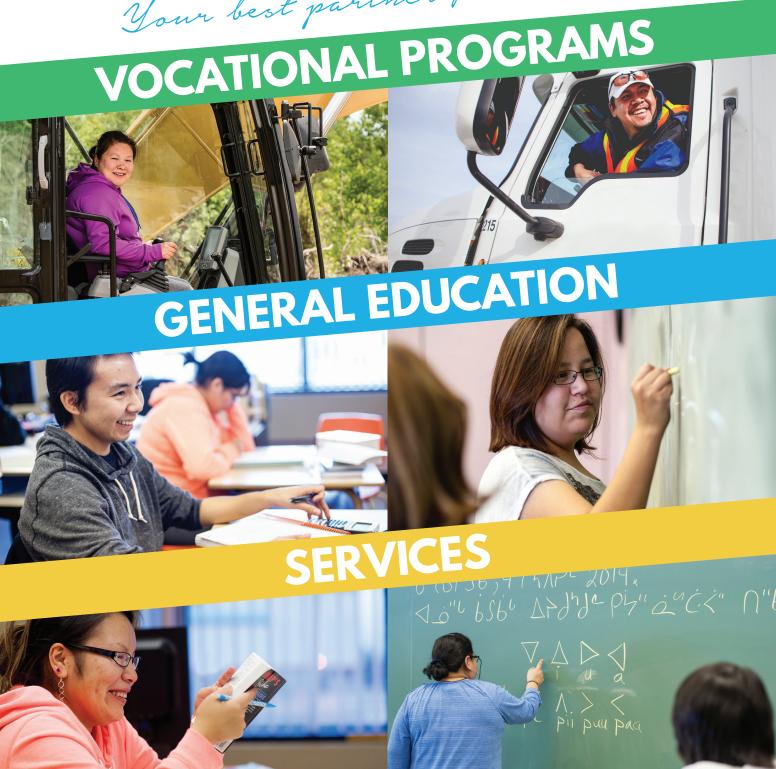
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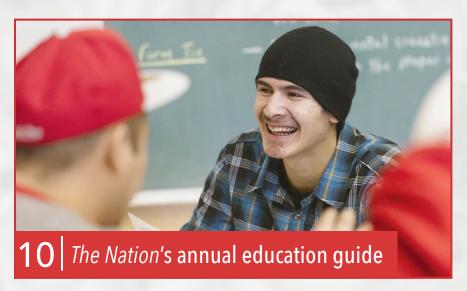


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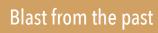


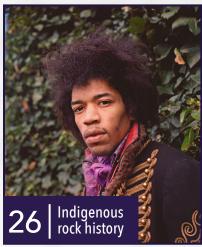


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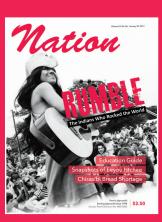








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## What is **governance?**



A constitution could help implement

these democratic safeguards. But they

need to be enforced and to do that

we need a mechanism to ensure we

can challenge those with power in our

Cree Constitution, but we need to

think hard about what purpose it will

serve. We need to think beyond our

narrow, personal interests and design

a framework for a true Cree Nation

that will well serve future generations

of sovereign eeyou and eenou.

So we do agree it is time for a

he Grand Council is beginning a tour of all Eeyou communities, including Mocreebec and Washaw Sibi, to consult on governance and a Cree constitution. So it's time to reflect on what this means for those of us who live in this realm we call Eeyou Istchee, whether we live in the communities or elsewhere. How will this affect me? How can we sustain a Cree Nation Government with law-making powers? How will it be funded or supported? What body will enforce the laws that are adopted? What opportunity will we have to appeal arbitrary decisions? It will be an interesting debate.

Look at where we have come from: the path we have walked and the challenges we have survived. The decline of food animals from clear-cuts, hydro dams and mine tailings, not to mention the appropriation of the wealth of this land, and for whom? How much are we really getting for these things we now think will sustain us? Who really benefits? Do we personally benefit?

We will have to look closely at the tainly need ironclad fine print. How will our lives improve from these changes? What are we giving back in exchange? Look again at where we have come from. For instance, who is working at our entities? Are they productive? Were they the best for the job or are were they hired because they were related to the director? What about the abuses and abusers within our communities: who

> We need to think beyond our narrow, personal interests and design a framework for a true **Cree Nation**

is accountable for them? Every day in our communities, somebody is hurt and people know about it. But do they bring it up or is that person charged? Who will manage the teams needed to advise on and administrate those society. lawmaking powers?

Who will teach our children what they need to do to get into the professional positions that will be needed? Will people already in place hire them? Is there a chance that we can do this without losing more of our language and culture?

Not to be pessimistic about things. but I think we need to see where we have come from and look at ourselves in the mirror. What I mean is that we need clear conflict of interest guidelines. Likewise. we cerrules surrounding the disclosure of information from our governing bodies. Secrecy harms good governance and only benefits those who wish to misuse the powers we invest in them.



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#### Failure to fully report mercury levels at

Victor diamond mine leads to private prosecution

by Will Nicholls

hen the people elected to uphold the law don't fulfill their obligations, at least citizens have an alternative. This is the case with a private prosecution that the Wildlands League has filed against De Beers Canada Inc. Assisted by lawyers from the Ecojustice organization, the League is trying to force the Ontario government to respect environmental reporting regulations surrounding De Beers' Victor Mine near Attawapiskat.

"Private prosecutions are an important tool that allows private citizens to hold industry to account," said Julia Croome, a lawyer for Ecojustice. "When governments don't enforce their own laws, this course of action is in the public interest."

The Wildlands League alleges that De Beers failed to report properly on mercury levels from water monitoring stations for creeks next to the open pit Victor Mine between 2009 and 2016, violating a condition of its certificate of approval. These are offences under the Ontario Water Resources Act, with a maximum fine of \$250,000 per day for a first-time corporate offender. The prosecution opened in the Ontario Court of Justice on January 12.

"De Beers has failed to report on five out of nine surface water monitoring stations, a mandatory requirement of its permit, for the last seven years," said Trevor Hesselink, Policy and Research Director for the Wildlands League and the lead author of a report on the issue

last December titled "Nothing to See Here: Failures of self-monitoring and reporting of mercury at the De Beeers Victor diamond mine in Canada."

"To compound matters, it is the downstream mercury samples that are not being reported," Hesselink added. These are just a few of several critical problems identified over the course of the 18-month investigation. The Victor Mine is upstream from the Cree community of Attawapiskat. A separate record of one of the missing monitoring stations showed a tripling of methylmercury in local waterways.

Fish are a major source of food for residents of Attawapiskat. The high price of groceries ensures that this will continue to be the case. A request for a Health Canada study on methylmercury effects in the community by the Attawapiskat Band Council has not happened to date.

The Wildlands League demands four actions from the government: for Ontario to stop relying on the existing self-monitoring by De Beers and establish independent monitoring and reporting; to recover the full suite of monitoring data, especially all downstream data; to review the monitoring program and provide additional monitoring intensity for Granny Creeks, which run past the mine; and, to remove barriers to information and ensure public access to required performance monitoring.

The Wildlands League report alleges that both De Beers and the Ontario government tried to stonewall their independent investigation. The report can be found at wildlandsleague.org.

The Victor Mine case is in sharp contrast to the experience of the Eastern lames Bay Cree. When it was found that the La Grande hydroelectric project was leading to high levels of methylmercury, a committee was formed with both Cree and Hydro-Québec representatives. At all times raw data was available to both parties. Studies examined mercury in the food chain, in wildlife other than fish, and involved samples from Cree that included blood and hair levels. Information on the effects of methylmercury in the human body was made available and included consumption recommendations.

Olivier Boucher, a neuropsychologist at Sacré-Coeur Hospital in Montreal, told the Nation that prolonged exposure to methylmercury at non-toxic doses is associated with attention, cognitive, motor and sensory impairments, especially in children exposed in utero or during the first years of life.

"Acute exposure to toxic doses can lead to more severe impairments both in adults and children, including visual loss, ataxia [the loss of full control of bodily movements] and mental retardation," added Olivier, who also teaches psychology at the Université de Montréal.







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Taking control

Working towards a Cree **constitution** 

ne of Canada's most significant events took place on April 17, 1982, when Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau and Queen Elizabeth Il signed The Constitution Act, 1982, which finally gave Canada ultimate power over its own constitution. This was more or less an adaptation of the giving the government of Canada the power to amend its own constitution and laws, and complete independence from the British powers – in other words, self-government.

Like this historical event, the Cree Nation is now one step closer in achieving its own version of self-governance with the introduction of a new draft governance agreement between the Cree of Eeyou Istchee and the government of Canada.

The Grand Council of the Crees has begun community consultations to inform beneficiaries of the final draft of the new governance agreement and the Cree constitution. The consultations were scheduled for the New Year following the conclusion of negotiations between the Cree and the federal gov- members of Waswanipi was whether ernment in December 2016.

The consultation process began in Waswanipi January 10. The meeting, chaired by Waswanipi Chief Marcel Happyjack, was a two-hour presentation that started at 7 pm and was followed by a question period that went on past midnight.

According to Happyjack, the meeting went well and many of the concerns

of the community were heard and addressed. Happyjack said he did not sense a lot of opposition to the agreement from the community members, but rather they had questions about the process of approval and what is required from the communities.

The information sessions were British North American (BNA) Act, arranged because, as part of the approval process, each band council must sign off on the new agreement and pass their approval by resolution. Before the Canadian Parliament can approve the agreement, each of the Cree Nation governments must first laws are set out and explained in the give their own assent.

> The purpose of the new agreement is to give local and regional Cree government more authority on category IA lands, which is seen as a further step towards self-governance. What this means for Cree people is that our band councils and the Cree Nation Government (CNG) will now have legislative power over these lands and it will give them the authority to make laws over these lands, not just bylaws.

> One of the concerns brought up by the local bands will be surrendering more powers to the CNG. Happyjack explained that this would not be the case and he felt that this agreement, from what he heard, would in fact give more power locally to the Cree people.

"It's less red tape," said Happyjack. "[The agreement] gives us more self-autonomy within the Cree Nation."

Like the government of Canada adopting its own constitution, rather than being bound under the BNA Act, this new agreement will give the Cree Nation more freedom to govern without being bound by the Cree-Naskapi Act. It currently only allows the Cree to enact bylaws that are then subject to approval by Canada. Now, the CNG and the local bands will have the power to enact their own laws without the need for approval from the Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs.

The processes for enacting Cree constitution, as are other issues such as elections, financial accountability and

Happyjack said he is planning to hold internal consultations in his community to further inform the people of Waswanipi about the agreement.

Happyjack is also preparing an assessment of the agreement with legal counsel, which is to be completed by the end of lanuary in order to confirm their position.

"We're not saying that we're against it, but we still have a lot of questions," Happyjack said.

Consultations will take place in all the Cree communities and will continue until March. A public meeting with the Cree Nation of Washaw Sibi was held lanuary 12 and the next one will be in Nemaska January 30. Information on community consultations and dates will be available soon on the Grand Council website.

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#### Cree and Inuit sign MOU on marine waters

Members of the Eeyou Marine Region Impact Review Board, the Nunavut Marine Region Impact and the Nunavik Marine Region Impact Review Board have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to guide their continued cooperation between the boards in the region.

The three independent institutions, which were created through comprehensive landclaim agreements, are responsible for the protection of ecosystem integrity and the protection and promotion of the existing and future wellbeing of the residents and communities of the region.

With a mandate to protect the region's wildlife while maintaining the health of the land and hunting traditions, the three boards have agreed to work together when it comes to addressing shared challenges. An example of this is the establishment of the Hudson Bay Consortium, which connects governmental, educational and local interests in the area.

The three boards signed the MOU on December 23. It will cover issues related to land, waters and wildlife that the groups have stewardship over, particularly when it comes to environmental impact assessments and boundary issues.



While Health Canada had been

assuring the public that this was not

the case and that communities did

have access to kits, according to

Nishnawbe Aski Nation Grand Chief

was made known to Status of

Women Minister Patty Hadju, Health

Minister Jane Philpott and Indigenous

was scarcely aware of the issue.

on December 5 while attending a According to Canadian Press, only 60% of Indigenous communities have meeting concerning sexual abuse in access to rape kits, an essential tool Indigenous communities. when it comes to investigations of

Though Health Canada did make statements claiming that all Indigenous communities were equipped, a poll of those communities showed that 19 did not have them on hand at the nursing outpost stations and that victims often had to travel to hospitals Alvin Fiddler, the federal government outside the communities.

While new kits were immediately According to Fiddler, the issue dispatched, Fiddler expressed his disappointment with the ministers who are supposed to be responsible for the health and welfare of Indigenous Affairs Minister Carolyn Bennett women.

#### Canada wants to hear and see you

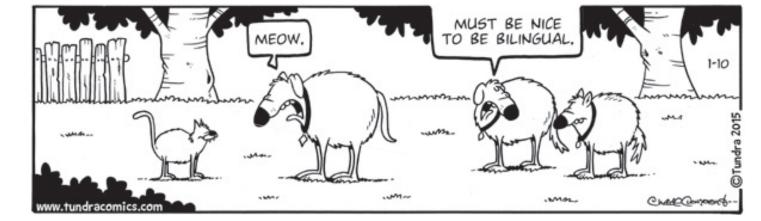
As part of ongoing celebrations for Canada's 150th birthday, Historica Canada is calling on Canadians to submit 30-second videos that address the question of what Canada means for different age categories. to them.

sexual assaults.

With 500 submissions from across the country so far, Historica Canada has made a special call to Canada's northern peoples as only one submission has been made from the region.

As an incentive, prizes such as iPads, gift cards and cash will be awarded for the best videos and naturally there will be different prizes

Children as young as six and up are welcomed to participate and share their feelings as well as the sights and sounds around them with the world. For more info: www. hereismycanada.ca





## Education for all



## The Nation's annual list

of continuing education programs, colleges and universities

by Joshua Grant



#### "Find a job your career path. There you enjoy doing, and you will never work a day in your life,"

...or so the saying goes. But in reality, choosing a career is not always a clear-cut process. As people grow older and gain life experience, many develop new passions and skill sets or simply want to try something different.

It's perfectly fine to shift gears or change directions at any point on

are plenty of resources available to help you get the education or training you need to find a job in your field of interest. The most important part of planning your education and career goals is to be honest with yourself and to take the time to learn what truly fulfills you as an individual.

Here's a look at education opportunities in Eeyou Istchee, Quebec, Ontario and the rest of Canada for those considering their options in the coming year.



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## Eeyou Istchee

#### **Sabtuan Adult Education Services**

Sabtuan Adult Education Services (SAES) continues to grow, this time with a new education centre in Mistissini set to start construction this summer and open in 2018. SAES will be better able to support Eeyou seeking to return to school and acquire the training they need to land rewarding employment, diversify their skill set or change careers. Sabtuan's programs offerings vary each year and rotate between the Sabtuan Regional Vocational Training Centre (SRVTC) in Waswanipi and individual Cree communities. Here's a quick look at the programs on deck in the coming

#### **Hotel Reception** (Chisasibi)

A 735-hour course in English, Hotel Reception teaches students the day-to-day skills required for a hotel reception job: maintaining quest registry books, answering client inquiries

skills. Registration is open for this program in Chisasibi and the course is scheduled to start February 27. **Trucking Class 1** (Nemaska

with diverse skill sets who are familiar with

computer software and have good people

## and Waswanipi)

Sabtuan's Trucking program is the perfect start for aspiring big rig drivers who enjoy long hours on the road and are looking to get involved in the transportation industry. The course partners with the Centre de formation en transport de Charlesbourg and applicants are required to have had a valid Class 5 driver's license for at least three years with no more than three demerit points. Program objectives include planning trips, driving on rural roads and highways, basic driving techniques, vehicle maintenance, time management, knowledge of road regulations and laws, fuel-efficient driving, loading and unloading and resolving issues that arise



concerning hotel services and using computerized and manual systems to handle administration duties. A Hotel Reception certificate will help you land a comfortable job working the front desk of a hotel anywhere in Quebec or outside the province, and caters to people

from the application of regulations. Taught in English over 615 hours, the Trucking course prepares drivers to operate a wide range of combination vehicles including two or three axle trucks, trailers and combination vehicles. The course in Nemaska starts soon and the one in Waswanipi commences on May 23.

#### Trucking Class 3 (Nemaska and Waswanipi)

With the same requirements as its Class 1 counterpart, Class 3 trucking has similar program objectives but focuses specifically on the operation of tractor-trailers. With a Class 3 permit, you're authorized to drive a twin axle truck with a 4500 kg+ net weight, a truck with three or more axles or a vehicle hauling a trailer or semi-trailer with a net weight of at least 2000 kg but less than 4500 kg.

#### **Drilling and Blasting** (Nemeska)

Getting to know the inner workings of a construction site, mastering the use of mining equipment and learning and applying safety regulations are the main aspects of Sabtuan's drilling and blasting course. This course will set you up for a job in surface mining, quarrying or construction. You could even join the Stornoway or Goldcorp team, contribute to the Cree economy and work close to home. Set to start this spring, Drilling and Blasting is administered over 900 hours and taught in English.

#### Starting a Business (Chisasibi, Wemindji to be confirmed)

Teaching project management skills and helping potential entrepreneurs develop and prepare their own business plan, the Starting a Business course is a 330-hour program in English. If you have a budding idea for your own enterprise or would like to eventually strike out on your own as an independent business owner, here's your chance to learn the concrete steps to do so successfully. The course is offered annually with start and end dates to be confirmed, and there are no academic prerequisites.



#### **Plastering** (Whapmagoostui)

The Plastering program trains students to apply plaster on a variety of surfaces with either a trowel or a plastering machine, attach metal mouldings, seal gypsum sheet joints, carry out plaster moulding work and place prefabricated ornamental elements. This is the type of practical training that can lead to a career in renovations and interior design. Over the course of 810 hours students learn everything there is to know about the trade while also applying associated health and safety standards. Registration closes soon for the Whapmagoostui course that is set to begin on February 13.

#### **Customer Service** (Chisasibi)

There are always jobs available in customer service and patient people-oriented individuals with good communication and teamwork skills are the types that can excel in this sort of career. The program trains people to work as a representative of a public or private organization. It

will help students establish positive contact with different types of clients to assure customer satisfaction and loyalty while attracting new clientele. Students learn to welcome, orient and consult with clients and also handle customer complaints, in person, over the phone, by e-mail or written letter. Delivered over 540 hours, this course starts in Chisasibi on February 20.

#### **Home Care Assistance** (Waskaganish)

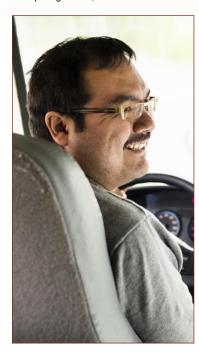
Home Care Assistance is a 975-hour course in English that provides students with the qualifications and knowledge for a career as a visiting homemaker, housekeeper and occupations related to caregiving in the home. You will learn to provide basic health care, household support, handle daily housekeeping tasks and establish a relationship of trust with clients. If you have good thinking and communication skills and find fulfillment in helping others who have a hard time taking care of themselves, Home Care Assistance is the perfect start to make a career out of it.

#### **Construction Business Management** (Waskaganish)

This program trains students on the professional, technical and organizational sides of construction, teaching project management, basic accounting and human resources, how to read drawings and specifications, plan business development, manage health and safety and develop an understanding of Quebec's building codes. Taught in English with 450

hours of class time, graduates in Construction Business Management are prepared to work in various trades as contractors, supervisors and residential home builders or renovators. Registration and start date to be con-

For more information or to register for one of these community programs, contact Patricia Richard (Nemaska and Waskaganish) 514-226-7578, Rene Blackned (Wemindji) 514-260-7490 or Roberta Neacappo (Chisasibi and Whapmagoostui) 514-206-7103.



#### Sabtuan Regional **Vocational Training** Centre

Sabtuan's Regional Vocational Training Centre in Waswanipi (SRVTC) also has a full slate of programming available throughout the year and these are a few of the available options coming up in 2017:

the Nation 13 12 the Nation January 20, 2017 www.nationnews.ca

## **GO FURTHER IN 2017**

## **TAKE A VOCATIONAL PROGRAM**





#### **WASKAGANISH**

- Trucking Class 3
- Drilling and Blasting
- Home Care • Trucking Class 1 Assistance
  - Construction **Business Management**

#### **WEMINDJI**

Trucking Class 3

- Customer
  - Service (STC)

**CHISASIBI** 

- Hotel Reception
- Starting a Business

**REGISTER NOW** 

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CHISASIBI & WHAPMAGOOSTUI: ROBERTA NEACAPPO 514-206-7103

### **DISCOVER OUR REGIONAL PROGRAMS**





#### **WASWANIPI-SRVTC**

#### **Winter 2017**

- Mining Mobile Mechanics
- Recreation Leadership
- Surveying and Topography

#### Spring 2017

- Landscaping
- Northern Heavy Equipment Operations
- Semi Automatic Welding (AEP)





**WHAPMAGOOSTUI** 

Plastering

#### **REGISTER NOW CONTACT MARTINE OTTAWA: 1-844-753-4040 EXT. 3623**

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#### **Recreation Leadership:**

A long, classroom based course that lasts 1290 hours, recreation leadership trains program leaders and instructors in recreation, sport and fitness to organize recreational activities. While it's likely too late to register for this year's program which was scheduled to start this month, be sure to contact Sabtuan for more info if you enjoy leading an active lifestyle and are interested in making a living out of planning and coordinating recreation, sports and fitness activities.

#### Surveying and Topography:

Surveying and Topography at SRVTC gets underway in February and is an interesting program for people who are good with numbers and translating technical data into visual information. Students learn to gather topographic data, master surveying instruments,

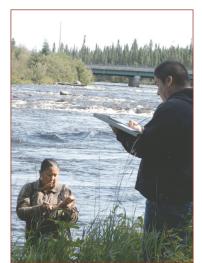
mathematically manipulate gathered information, stake out lots and lay out buildings, graphically portray their surveys on a drafting table or computer and learn to follow certain safety rules. An 1800 hour course taught in English, graduates typically pursue a career as a land survey technician and technologist.

#### **Northern Heavy Equipment** Operations:

Currently open for registration and scheduled to start May 17 at Sabtuan's regional centre in Waswanipi, Northern Heavy Equipment Operations teaches the basic principles of construction infrastructure and the knowledge and application of safety regulations in the construction industry. Students have the opportunity to operate industrial vehicles and get a taste of the heavy lifting aspect of construction. The course teaches heavy machinery maintenance and the operation of all kinds of different machines with a hands-on approach and comprehensive class experience. The course is delivered in English and involves 900 hours of class time and training.

Other courses that will be offered throughout the course of the year are Mining Mobile Mechanics, Semi-Automatic Welding, Landscaping, Bus Driving, Commercial and Residential Painting, Northern Building Maintenance, Electricity, Secretarial Studies, Computing Support, Accounting, Food and Beverages, Professional Cooking, Carpentry and Heavy Equipment Mechanics.

For more information on Sabtuan's programs or to register for regional courses see csbsaes.ca or phone Martine Ottawa at 1-844-753-4040 Ext. 3623.



#### **Cegep Saint-Félicien**

If you enjoy nature and the great outdoors, Cégep Saint-Félicien's main campus located near Lac Saint-Jean offers a variety of courses in French focused on tourism and wildlife and the benefit of studying in a beautiful environment of forests, lakes, rivers

## Northern Quebec

and beaches. For those who would like to study closer to home, the Centre d'études collégiale à Chibougamau is another great option, offering college programs just an hour outside Mistissini.

The deadline to apply for the Fall 2017 semester is March 1 and November 1 for the Winter 2018 session. Cégep Saint-Félicien also has a "tremplin DEC" program that allows you to take general education courses and learn about the school's different programs before deciding which diploma you would like to pursue. Here's a selection of the offerings Saint-Félicien has for students in northern Quebec at their different campuses throughout the Saguenay

#### Milieu Naturel:

The "natural environment" program develops future environmental technicians in the development and rational use of natural resources and environmental protection and conservation, all within a focus on sustainable development. Students in this program complete a year and a half of general courses in the field before choosing one of four specializations: forestry, wildlife, natural heritage or environmental protection.

#### Soins infirmiers:

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- An innovative MSW degree immersed in an Indigenous wholistic world view
- A full-time MSW program offered at Laurier's Kitchener campus
- Part-time offering in partnership with **First Nations** Technical Institute
- $\bullet$  An empowering and transformative learning experience

ADMISSION DEADLINE: MARCH 1, 2017

For more information, contact: Cara Loft (BSW), Coordinator for the Aboriginal Field of Study Tel: 519.884.0710 x5249 Email: cloft@wlu.ca

wlu.ca/socialwork





pare you for Quebec's famously tough entry exam into l'Ordre des infirmières et des infirmiers du Québec and the demanding environment of a medical profession.

#### Tourisme:

A tourism diploma prepares those with a love for travel and knack for customer service to develop and implement products and services related to the tourism industry, manage tourism-related businesses and improve their people skills for handling clients. This is a great program for those interested in sharing and exploring culture, learning a third or fourth language and branching out into the tourism sector as an employee or entrepreneur.

All of Cégep Saint-Félicien's training programs that are offered at the Chibougamau location are recognized by the Ministry of Education of Quebec and earn their graduates a Quebec college diploma. Those interested in learning more about these programs and other courses offered by the school are invited to call the Chibougamau Collegial Studies Centre at 418-748-3903, ext. 223 or visit cegepstfe.ca.

#### Cégep Abitibi-Témiscamingue

Cégep de l'Abitibi-Témiscamingue has a campus in Val-d'Or that boasts a First Nations Student Services department designed to provide academic support and cater specifically to the needs of Aboriginal students. Also on campus is the Salon des Premières Nations where students can engage with peers in both French and English and have their own space to study, relax and participate in workshops and group discussions.

The Cégep offers a large range of full-time courses and continuing education services at its Val-d'Or, Rouyn Noranda and Amos campuses and also gives individualized training and short programs in First Nations communities where they are in demand. Available programs include accounting, specialized education, child services education, organization management, management, marketing and customer service, community health and administration (mainly



offered in French) all delivered in a First Nation and Inuit context. See the full list here: www.cegepat.qc.ca/futurs-etudiants/formations-aux-premieres-nations/

Another interesting option is the Access to College program that pairs First Nations students with an academic advisor during the first semester to determine a manageable class load and develop a course plan that fits your needs and personal goals. The program aims to clarify your career choice, help you build good study habits, get the prerequisites required for the program of your choosing and ultimately improve your chances for success within the post-secondary education system. Check out www.cegepat.gc.ca/programmes/ access-to-college-first-nations/

#### Université du Québec Abitibi-Témiscamingue

The Université du Québec en Abitibi-Témiscamingue (UQAT) also tailors a number of programs to Indigenous students that are offered both in French and in English depending on student demand. All of UQAT's programs are viable options for First Nations looking for higher education but the university has developed specific courses adapted to the unique cultural and learning approaches of First Nations and Inuit. The goal of these classes is to use teaching styles and class resources that incorporate Aboriginal perspectives and use course material and class examples that reflect Indigenous realities. If you're looking for university education not too far outside the Cree Nation that caters to Native students, check out the variety of culturally sensitive programs that UQAT has to offer:

- Aboriginal Training and Programs Development Unit: University Studies Preparatory Program, Certificate in Aboriginal Studies, Undergraduate Short Program in Aboriginal Tourism Management, Undergraduate Short Program in Childhood-Family Intervention in an Aboriginal context.
- Management: Certificate in Human Resources Management, Administration, Management and Regional Development, Executive Master of Business Administration (EMBA).
- Education: Certificate in Visual Arts, Primary Education for Substitute Teachers, Bachelor Degree in Preschool Education and Primary Teaching.
- Human and Social Development: Bachelor of Social Work
- Creation and New Media: Certificate in digital creation



If you're looking to study in French, UQAT offers all of the same programs with a few additional options *en français*:

- Unité de formation et de développement des programmes autochtones : Programme préparatoire aux études universitaires, Certificat en études autochtones, Microprogramme de 1er cycle en études autochtones, Microprogramme de 1er cycle en gestion du tourisme autochtone, Microprogramme de 1er cycle en intervention enfance-famille en contexte autochtone.
- pagnement à l'enseignement primaire, Microprogramme de 1er cycle de formation à l'enseignement d'une langue seconde en contexte autochtone, Baccalauréat en éducation préscolaire et en enseignement primaire.
- Développement humain et social : Baccalauréat en travail social
- Création et nouveaux médias :
  Certificat en création numérique
  The deadline to apply to UQAT is
  March 1 for full-time studies and June
  1 for part time, applications for the
  Winter session must be submitted by
  November 1. For more information on
  the services, programs and resources

UQAT has for Indigenous students you can visit uqat.ca/en/services/firstpeoples or call 819 874-8728.

#### **Kiuna Institution**

Located on the beautiful Odenak Reserve on Abenaki territory just 35 minutes from Trois-Rivières, Kiuna Institution offers a college education designed by First Nations for First Nations. The college's mission is to "shape competent First Nations citizens in their respective fields" with a focus on maintaining one's culture, developing social responsibility, having an open mind and a concern for the well-being of their home communities.

If you are looking to transition to a public Cégep, Kiuna offers an orientation and integration semester followed by a transition semester that allows new students to smoothly adapt to college life. Upon completing the transition terms, students have the opportunity to enrol in Kiuna's one-of-a-kind First Nations Social Science program.

With a diversified approach to Indigenous education, Kiuna offers unique opportunities for First Nations students and the chance to develop a strong sense of Aboriginal identity, heritage, rights and traditions before deciding on a career path. kiuna-college.com

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## Colleges in Southern Quebec and Northern Ontario

#### **Algonquin College**

Algonquin College has campuses in Ottawa, Perth and Pembroke and is a popular choice for high school grads from Eeyou Istchee. With over 140 pre-university and career programs to choose from, Aboriginal students can start out in the General Arts and Science Aboriginal Studies program in a one- or twoyear format with class materials designed for Indigenous students. www.algonquincollege.

#### **Canadore College**

Canadore College in North Bay, Ontario has unique Aboriginal programs like Indigenous Preparatory Studies and an Indigenous Pre-Health Program. With smaller classes, oneon-one attention from academic advisors and

personalized education, Canadore can be a great starting point for First Nations students fresh out of high school. www.canadorec.

#### **Champlain Regional College**

Champlain College is based in Saint-Lambert on Montreal's south shore near the Longueuil métro station, with other regional locations in Lennoxville and Sainte-Foy. Champlain offers a number of different pre-university, technical and career programs as well as continuing education.

Champlain has been working with Kahnawake's First Nations Adult Education School Council to address unemployment issues amongst young Indigenous adults. The result are the preparatory and adapted First Nations Early Childhood Education programs that aim to eliminate barriers to college entry



and prepare potential students interested in the field for the acceptance requirements of the AEC program. www.champlainonline.com

#### **Dawson College**

One of Quebec's largest Cégeps, Dawson College is known for its theatre, photography, design and science programs. Located in downtown Montreal, the school has its own First People's Initiative that organizes regular events on campus and in the city, recognizing the unceded territory on which the school sits.

An Indigenous Studies Certificate is still in development but Dawson does offer a number of courses with plenty of First Nations content including but not limited to Native American Perspectives (English), Cultural Identity and Cultural Rights (Humanities), Canoe Skills, Canoe Camping, Winter Camping and Wilderness Camping (Physical Education) and Anthropology of Indigenous North America. www.dawsoncollege.qc.ca

#### **Vanier College**

Also located in Montreal, Vanier is renowned for its Arts programs and offers double DEC pre-university programs that can help you decide which passion to pursue in the future. Last

vear Vanier co-hosted the 3rd Annual Montreal Powwow, held on campus in the borough of Saint-Laurent, and the school also has its own Indigenous Circle to support Indigenous students mentally, socially and academically and help ease the transition from a small community to college life in urban Montreal, www.vaniercollege.

#### **John Abbott College**

John Abbott is in Sainte-Annede-Bellevue on the West Island of Montreal and has had an Aboriginal Resource Centre since 1990. The Cegep offers a Crossroads program for First Nations, Métis and Inuit that prepares Indigenous students for college expectations and the pre-university or



career program of their choice over the course of two semesters. Abbott also has Police Technology and Pathway to Police Technology programs and students have the option of adding an



## Universities



#### **Nipissing University**

A liberal arts university located in North Bay, Nipissing University consists of three faculties: Arts and Science, Applied and Professional Studies and the Schulich School of Education. Interesting options for First Nations are the Aboriginal Teacher Certification, the Teacher of Anishnaabemwin as a Second Language Program, Certificate in Aboriginal Leadership,

Native Classroom Assistant Diploma Program and a Native Special Education Assistant Diploma Program. Nipissing also offers a Native Studies option. www.nipissingu.ca

#### **Laurier University**

Laurier University has campuses in Waterloo and Brantford, Ontario and goes out of their way to ensure that First Nations, Inuit and Métis enjoy a positive education experience all the way through to graduation. Two interesting programs are a BA in Indigenous Studies that can be combined with a complementary program like Criminology, Health Studies or Human Rights, and a Master of Social Work, a program that incorporates Indigenous Elders, sharing circles and ceremony. Laurier also offers a variety of courses with Indigenous content. www.wlu.ca

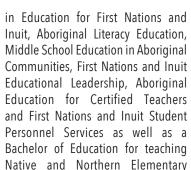
#### **Laurentian University**

With a 1:18 professor/student ratio and an average undergraduate class size of 27 students, Sudbury's Laurentian offers a truly personalized university education. It also has numerous programs that cater to Indigenous students and boasts one of the two Bachelor of Native Social Work programs available in Canada. Laurentian also has the Nishnaabe Kinoomaadwin Naadmaadwin (Native Teaching in Helping) department that trains Aboriginals for careers in Child

Welfare, Mental Health, Provincial/ Federal Corrections, Community Development, Administration, Research and Development, and Health Care. www.laurentian.ca

#### **McGill University**

McGill is not an easy school to get into given its worldwide reputation, high academic standards and stiff entry requirements, but it does have a number of quality programs for First Nations and Inuit. Offered in Indigenous communities under the Office of First Nations and Inuit Education, options include Certificates



school.

McGill has its own Indigenous Studies program under the Institute for the Study of Canada, an interdisciplinary minor program designed to bring First Nations issues to the forefront. Courses examine Indigenous life, the experience of Indigeneity and gender and Indigenous resistance to the Canadian government. In future years, the hope is to expand the program to include a major option, and





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ΔΥ-ΥΙΊΠΡη °Α-ΥΫ́ Cree School Board Commission scolaire crie

## To all our students,

Continue to strive forward staying focused on your goals! We look forward in celebrating with you at the finish line!

> Kathleen J. Wootton, Chairperson **Cree School Board Council of Commissioners**

> > **Abraham Jolly, Director General Cree School Board Senior Directors**

Education is the passport to the future, for tomorrow belongs to those who prepare for it today.

L'éducation est le passeport pour le futur, car demain appartient à ceux qui s'y préparent aujourd'hui.

√∆°▷·∆"4∧▷·C"<≈ °Δ'J∩Ь'¹ 

- Malcolm X



eventually build an Indigenous Studies institute on campus. www.mcgill.ca

#### **Concordia University**

Another Montreal university with campuses downtown and in Notre-Dame-de-Grace, Concordia is popular for its Fine Arts, Arts and Science, Engineering, Translation and Business programs. The John Molson School of Business has developed an international reputation and has a wide range of programs for those aspiring to an entrepreneurial career including Accountancy, Economics, Finance, Business Technology Management, Human Resource Management, International Business and Marketing.

Concordia has an Indigenous Studies program as well as an Aboriginal Student Resource Centre for students to study, relax and meet new people. www.concordia.ca

#### **University of Ottawa**

The University of Ottawa has excellent Aboriginal programming that includes a major or

minor in Aboriginal Studies through the Faculty of Arts, special programming in the Faculty of Law, an Aboriginal Teacher Education Program (Primary/ Junior B.Ed or Certificate) and a School of Nursing Aboriginal Students Initiative under its Faculty of Health Sciences.

Ottawa U's Aboriginal Health Program in its Faculty of Medicine has a specific mandate to graduate Aboriginal doctors and medical students from across Canada compete for seats in the prestigious program. www.uottawa.ca

#### **Carleton University**

Carleton University in Ottawa has a Centre for Aboriginal Culture and Education (CACE), created to increase the recruitment and retention of Aboriginal students, faculty and staff. The CACE's principal goal is to ensure that Aboriginal cultures, traditions and worldviews are well represented and respected throughout the school.

Carleton also offers Aboriginal Enriched Support Program (AESP), courses that are designed to support Aboriginal students transitioning into BA programs. www.carleton.ca

#### **Trent University**

Located in Peterborough, Trent University's Indigenous Studies program is arguably the best in the country. Trent has a variety of program formats for studying Indigenous perspectives: an eight-course Diploma Program in Indigenous Studies or Indigenous Environmental Studies, a 15- or 20-course BA in Indigenous Studies, 15- or 20-course BA or BSc in Indigenous Environmental Studies and a two-year MA in Canadian Studies and Indigenous Studies.

www.trentu.ca

#### **Mount Royal University**

If you are looking for a change of scenery, enrolling at Calgary's Mount Royal University would bring you to Western Canada right next to the Rocky Mountains. The school has it own Iniskim Centre for First Nations, Métis and Inuit, dedicated to increasing the enrolment and retention of Aboriginal students and promoting awareness of distinct cultures, heritage and treaties.

Mount Royal offers an Aboriginal Science and Technology Education Program (ASTEP), developed in response to the need for better representation of Aboriginal peoples in the fields of science and technology and provides a comprehensive support system while you prepare for a variety of exciting careers in either field. ASTEP fosters a supportive learning model for Aboriginal students preparing for, and studying in, the Bachelor of Science (BSc) or the Bachelor of Computer Information Systems (BCIS) degree programs at Mount Royal. www.mtroyal.ca

#### **University of Winnipeg**

The Department of Indigenous Studies at the University of Winnipeg is centred on the intellectual and cultural heritage of Indigenous peoples in Canada and around the globe. It invites students from all backgrounds and disciplines to explore the unique complexities and broad, diverse cultures associated with the study of First Nations.

The university offers multidisciplinary coursework in Indigenous/ Aboriginal governance, politics, anthropology, history, religious studies and conflict resolution studies. The

dition and knowledge, uwinnipeg.ca **University of** Saskatchewan

Sitting in the South Saskatchewan River valley in Saskatoon, the University of Saskatchewan boasts a large Indigenous population and Aboriginal services and law, business, management, science, education and medicine programs specifically for First Peoples. The school website states a clear commitment to First Nations students:

department recognizes the central role of language as a carrier of culture, tra-

"The University of Saskatchewan is dedicated to Indigenous student success, to fostering meaningful relationships with Indigenous communities and to promoting Indigenous knowledges and scholarship. Through collaboration, innovation, respect and humility, the university fosters a welcoming environment that is grounded in the principles of reconciliation and is able to address the calls to action placed on everyone in this country."

Saskatchewan is quite a ways from Eevou Istchee but offers an interesting option for students working towards an advanced career.

aboriginal.usask.ca

ith the launch of Stornoway's Renaud diamond mine north of Mistissini, ongoing developments by Hydro-Québec and Goldcorp on Cree territory and the continued growth and expansion of Cree entities like the Board of Compensation and Cree Construction, there are a number of unique job opportunities available to those in the Cree Nation.

Albert Rondeau, CREECO's Chief Accountant, says that the Board of Compensation/CREECO is looking for independent, motivated, hard-working individuals with good problem-solving skills. They hope to expand their insurance program to employ two field workers and hire a chief operating officer, an investment professional and a marketing/communications officer.

Dominic Gagnon, General Manager of Valpiro Inc., expects to hire two full-time ramp attendants in the next few years and will be looking for applicants in good physical shape with a high school diploma and a valid driver's license. Valpiro provides ground services and aircraft refuelling upgrade their employees' skill sets. in Val-d'Or.

Human Resources Development ondary or continuing education is (CHRD) works constantly to help Sabtuan's guidance counsellor Luc the job market.

employers and prospective employees meet their employment needs within the Cree Nation. The CHRD's mandate is to help Eeyou improve their job search skills, gain work experience, upgrade their personal skills and vocational education, start their own business and encourage employers to take them on. For employers, the CHRD aims to create new job positions and

Another useful resource available Under the Grand Council, Cree to Crees seeking trade skills, post-sec-

Bertrand. Besides Sabtuan's planned visits to each community and the annual CHRD job fair, Bertrand can provide advice on the next step to take in your career path. He is available by e-mail or by

phone and also organizes individual consultations upon request. Feel free to reach out to him at 418-923-2764 ext. 1323, or guidancecounselling@ cscree.gc.ca for support, whether you want to go back to school, continue your studies, define your career objectives or better prepare yourself to enter

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eyou Istchee will be forever intertwined with Dolly Parton for photographer George Legrady. He spent the summer there in 1973 photographing everyday moments to create a cultural record of the Cree who hunted on the land before it was flooded by James Bay hydroelectric development.

"We were given a teepee, but when it got too cold I was lucky enough to find a family to put me up," Legrady explained. "Every morning they'd wake me up by playing Dolly Parton."

His black-and-white photographs, now digitized in an online archive, serve as a window into the lames Bay communities before they were developed following the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement. "My method of capturing the everyday life of people





"People had a real sense of humour. They'd take me out on the water and then give me a problem. They'd say, 'Hey white man, how you gonna start a fire on this rocky, wet little island?' Of course I didn't know, so they would teach me," - George Legrady

Artist George Legrady returns north after a 40-year absence

## SNAPSHOTS OF EEYOU ISTOHEE

by Dan Isaac | Photos by George Legrady

was to just hang out with them," said Legrady. "A lot of how the pictures turned out had to do with chance."

In 2014, Legrady returned to Eeeyou Istchee for the first time since that initial visit. "I would walk into a place and take pictures for 10 to 15 minutes, and 40 years later, a person who was there and 10 years old at the time, remembered me," said a shocked

What was stranger for him though, is the way the Elders looked at the photos on the return trip. "One Elder said

from my perspective, as an outsider, it was a much more difficult time," said Legrady. "Now the communities have all the comforts and resources they lacked in the 1970s, but at the same time there are new problems."

And even though Legrady was able to capture intimate moments while visiting the communities, he still felt like an outsider. "It always felt kind of intimidating, or I was self-conscious about walking around the communities and taking photos," said Legrady.

It was when the people started my pictures showed a simpler time. But teasing him that he knew he had been

#### *Is your bank heading south?*



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accepted. "People had a real sense of humour. They'd take me out on the water and then give me a problem. They'd say, 'Hey white man, how you gonna start a fire on this rocky, wet little island?' Of course I didn't know, so they would teach me," said Legrady. "I really appreciated the fact that they would engage me in that way."

His first visit predated the creation of the Grand Council and the JBNQA. "One of the biggest things I noticed on my return is bilingualism. On my first trip most people spoke Cree, I didn't hear a lot of English," Legrady remarked.

"This time around people spoke mostly English, but I still heard a lot of Cree. Every community had a sports arena and cultural centre, and it was clear that the communities were well-managed."

And while the communities have undergone great changes in the four decades between Legrady's visits, the hospitality and humour he enjoyed persists to this day. "I noticed mostly superficial changes on my return visit. Though I wasn't able to connect with people as much, the warmness is still there,"

said Legrady. "And now I can keep in touch with people easier because of Facebook."

His highlights from the first trip were attending several weddings where fiddle music and dancing went on through the night. "It was totally uncool to listen to country music in the cities at the time. But all of a sudden in James Bay I was listening and dancing to this Scottish Bluegrass from 200 years ago," said Legrady.

"I still remember that Dolly Parton song they'd wake me up to every morning. It was Daddy Was An Old Time Preacher Man," said Legrady. "I had never heard Dolly before that, so when I got back to Montreal I bought that album and tortured everyone with it at parties.

"I went to see Dolly just a couple months ago here in Santa Barbara (California), where I'm living now. For me Dolly Parton is part of the James Bay - she is totally connected to my experience of being up there."









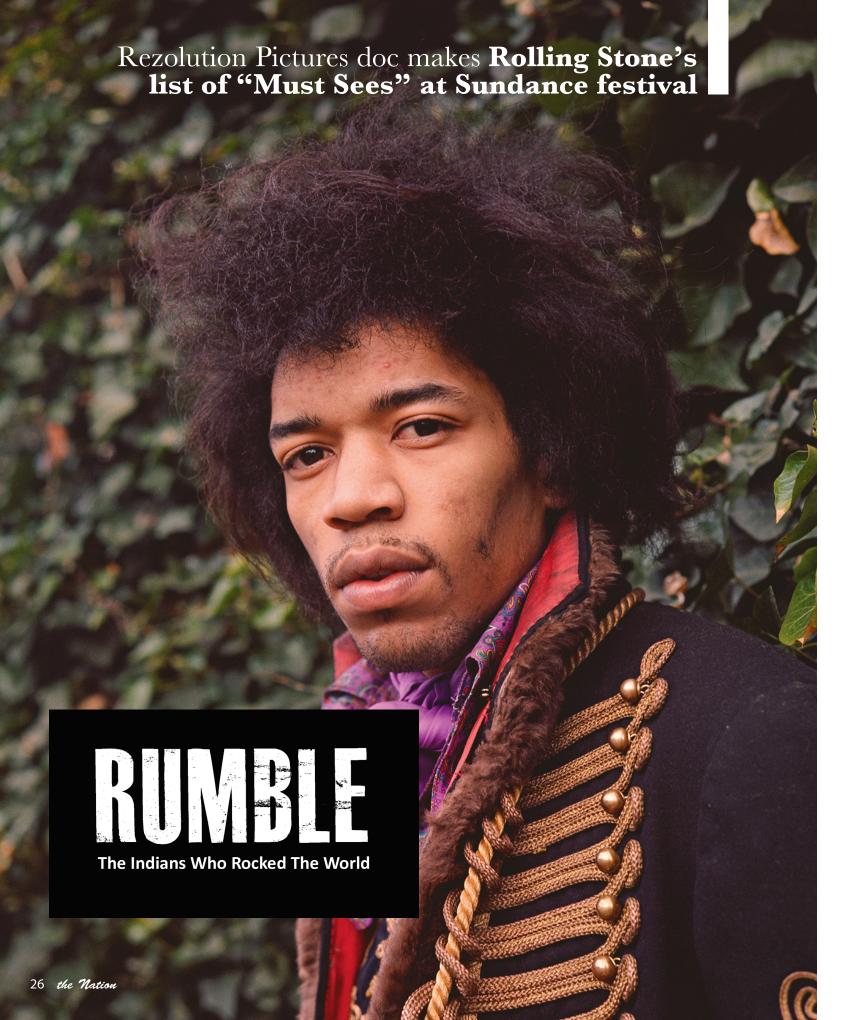












"You have to remember that A Tribe Called Red is the product of generations of people building towards that point where they can say, 'Yes, this is who we are and this is how we rock"

- Ernest Webb

#### by Dan Isaac | Photos provided by Rezolution Pictures

t's not every day your film premieres at the Sundance Film Festival, it's even more rare that Rolling Stone magazine singles it out as one of the illustrious event's 25 must sees. That, however, is the welcome for Rezolution Pictures' latest production, Rumble, a documentary on the untold history of Indigenous rock and roll.

"I try to take these things in stride," said Ernest Webb, co-founder of Rezolution Pictures and executive producer of Rumble. "It's already a tremendous honour to premiere at Sundance. But when you do your best, with the best people you have around you, and you work with a subject that's as great as the one we had, all that follows is the natural progression of that."

Directed by Catherine Bainbridge, the documentary follows the progression of rock and roll as it relates to the seminal instrumental song, "Rumble," composed by Native singer-songwriter Link Wray.

Major acts like Iggy Pop, Jimmy Page and Dan Auerbach all cite the tune as an influence. Others talk about "Rumble" as a precursor to heavy metal. But in an era that predates the civil rights movement, it wasn't always safe for people like Link Wray to identify themselves as Indigenous.

"The blues musician Charley Patton had to identify simply as 'coloured' even though he had Choctaw blood. But if you listen to his songs, as rough as the recordings were, even though he's singing in English, you can



Ernest Webb & Catherine Bainbridge of Rezolution Pictures



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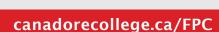
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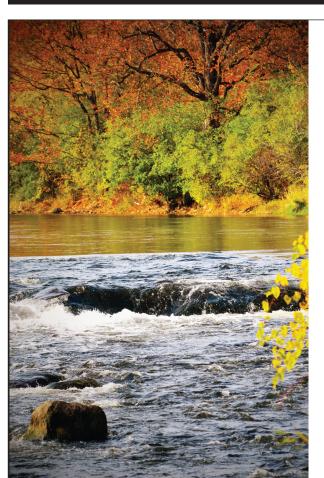
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hear Native chanting in the background, and he plays his guitar like a drum," said Webb. "This comes from the fact that Native music, drumming, was banned and people had to find a way to express themselves."

Musicians like Patton paved the way for acts that not only admit but celebrate their heritage.

"You have to remember that A Tribe Called Red is the product of generations of people building towards that point where they can say, 'Yes, this is who we are and this is how we rock'," Webb told the Nation. "A lot of these groups and artists hid who they were in the old days or just never mentioned it to keep themselves safe. Robbie Robertson never talked about his background until he did his solo album Music For the Native Americans."

But with household names like Martin Scorsese, Steven Tyler, Tony Bennett, Buffy Sainte-Marie, Quincy Jones and Slash adding their voices to the conversation, we can see that the times they are a-changin'.

It wasn't easy though. Years of research went into the project. It traces its inception to a Smithsonian exhibit called "Up Where We Belong: Native American Musicians in Popular Culture," co-curated by Stevie Salas, a Native-American guitarist, author and TV host. Salas also served as the film's executive pro-

Now all that's left for the makers is the premiere and the red carpet. "Who am I going to wear?" Webb asked with a smile.

















**COMEX** is the Environmental and Social Impact Review Committee, established by chapter 22 of the James Bay and Northern Quebec agreement.

It's mission is to review the environmental and social impacts of proposed development projects and make recommendations to the provincial and regional administrator of the Convention.

**COMEX** heard your concerns regarding consultations made by proponents and our public hearings. See our new "Action plan" on public participation and our "Expectations"

by visiting our WEB site at

#### www.comexqc.ca

or follow us on Twitter and Facebook.









2017 offered the opportunity for many to turn the

page, focus on the future,

and put the dark events of

Chisasibi, however, 2017

started on a threatening

note. For those who hadn't

had an opportunity to see

for themselves in the stores,

posts on Facebook and

social media made it clear

that something sinister was

going on - the entire Cree

Nation of Chisasibi was out

Northern Store or the

Co-op: it was the bread

equivalent of the "Perfect

Storm." when bread was

figuratively toast for a peri-

mals when we saw bread

in stores," joked Rachel

"We acted like ani-

od of several days.

It wasn't just the

residents

the past behind them.

For

of bread.

People burned through the community's supply of hot dog and hamburger buns to get their carbohydrate fix.

#### "I even saw people buying tortillas"

- Bertie Wapachee.

Martinhunter with a laugh. hether it was personal "I tried to steal a bread from political, 2016 an old lady!" was a difficult year for a lot People took to Facebook of people. The beginning of to vent their frustration with

> "It caught a lot of people off guard, it surprised them. A lot of what people said on Facebook was poking fun at the situation. It wasn't a serious case for most people," said Bertie Wapachee. "Those who posted anything about bread, it was sarcasm."

Still, Wapachee noted, "Probably the only people who panicked were the ones who couldn't make bannock. Everybody else wasn't too worried. If you can't find bread, make some! I had some bread in my house, and if I was going to run out, I still had flour."

Wapachee said that while he rationed his bread while the crisis sorted itself out, other people burned through the community's supply of hot dog and ham-



by Jesse Staniforth

## Chisasibi faces a brief but harrowing bread shortage

burger buns to get their carbohydrate fix.

"I even saw people buying tortillas," he added.

The bread shortage was the product of three individual failures. As Alice Snowboy, manager of the Chisasibi Co-op, explained, "We usually receive shipments twice a week - for bread and eggs. But over the holidays, we only got our supply once a week."

Roger Orr, proprietor of the Retro Daze Café and corner store, explained that on his end. "We can't order too much bread, because the expiry dates are about 10 days at the most. There is always a fear of having ordered too much then having to throw away cases. So we try to estimate how long the amount we ordered with the expiry dates will last on the shelf."

Retro Daze receives its orders once a week on Thursdays, Orr underlined, so if they run out, they're forced to wait until then to restock. Because the holiday season was coming, Retro Daze had been making double and triple bread orders, but it wasn't enough.

"We still ran out," Orr said. "It's a gamble because bread expires too fast."

Northern Store manager Ed MacKay referred all media inquiries to Northwest Company headquarters in Winnipeg.

"You have to be very careful with media and how things can be misconstrued," Northwest Company's

Business Director of Development, Derek Reimer, said from Winnipeg. "I've seen a litany of stuff on Facebook that I know was wrong, but it doesn't help when I get involved, so I stay out of it."

Reimer said the company received only a partial order from their supplier. "We ran short of the products as a result," he explained. "We'd put in for a larger order and we just didn't receive it all."

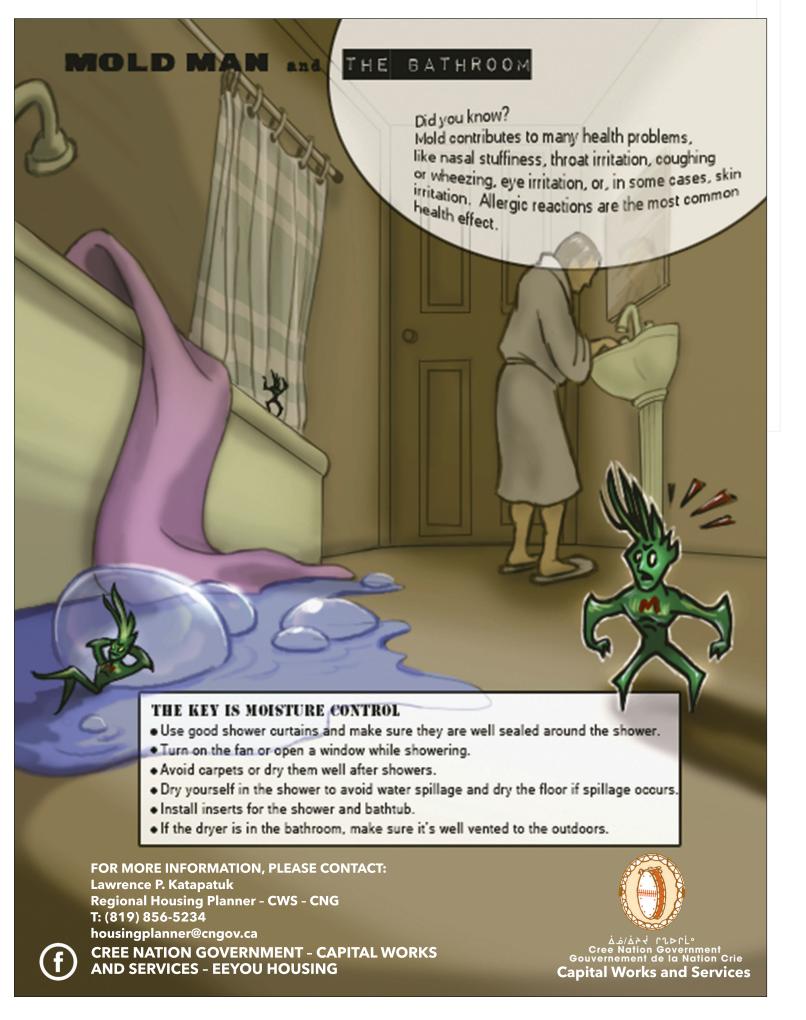
He emphasised that the Northern had placed two additional orders to their supplier, one of which had already been received as the Nation went to press.

Reflecting on the Great Bread Crisis of 2017, Wapachee said that Chisasibi has a history of making light

of minor inconveniences, rather than letting them cause the community worry.

"We have fun with these types of things, and that was what we saw all over Facebook," he said. "It's similar to when we ran out of power, and the power was off for quite some time. While some people who aren't prepared at all panicked, everybody else just went back to their 'Cree mode.' They exercised a bit to bring home some wood and make a fire. There's always the people who aren't prepared for these kinds of things, and this case was similar. We're never scared - other than of the dam breaking - everything else, we can handle."

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## **Alone** at the goose blind



was alone, or so I thought, at the goose blind one spring. The sound of footsteps behind me made me think that my hunting buddy had returned from the cabin for another round of hunting and waiting for the spring goose to fly by. As the footsteps drew nearer it seemed like buddy was breathing a little heavy. The steps stopped for a few seconds and the breathing sounded downright loud. I got up and turned around to see if buddy was okay. A startled caribou jumped up and twirled around a few metres away. It took off and left me standing there in a bit of a shocked state. The caribou had returned once again after many, many absent years from the Great Whale River area.

After the initial shock, buddy shows up and I ask him if he had seen the caribou. He points out to the Manitonik Sound where a large herd was meandering by. We both smiled and settled down for the longer wait for the geese, which the hunters down the Hudson Bay coast had promised would soon be in our sights. The caribou seemed a lot more tempting, however, and soon others from the camp ventured out and harvested a few for the camp. The year was 1986.

Sixteen years later, the caribou showed up during the winter months, along with their companions, the ptarmigan. That year, caribou were so abundant that it seemed that harvesting them so close to town might spook the whole herd into leaving en masse. But soon the norm to get caribou was to either head down to the Chisasibi area or charter expensive aircraft to get to the herds. Outfitting camps, set up in prime areas, benefitted greatly from the magnificent herd's annual migrations over the decades. Soon, conflicts arose, and recreational sport hunters were seen as the culprits for the atroc-



ities discovered by many a riled Eeyou

Again, the caribou disappeared

they could be found. In the old days, those wise with the art of divining information from bones were consulted and for some good reason, were a reliable source to track down your next

from the Hudson and James Bay coastlines until the turn of the century, when the cloven-hoofed masses again food and source of protein. returned to the north. This time. the outer islands of the bays and the coast of the lower Hudson Bay had some caribou to hunt. We accounted for three cleans one fine April day, when the caribou were on their northbound journey to their calving grounds. We headed back home after leaving nothing behind and hiding the blood-stained snow. It was a good hunt and our journey was satisfying, knowing that we had some much-needed country food in our freezers. The caribou, in its wild wisdom, bou hunt. This year, I hope, will be the

stayed away again for some time, traveling the deep inland routes. This forced herd. I can't wait another decade for a hunters to travel for many hours to

get to the herds. Hungry packs of wolves were always nearby, following the herds as they did for thousands of years. Again, the need for meat overrode costs and planes were chartered to wherever the bush radio said

This year, the caribou are abundant again, loitering around the urban areas of Cree and Inuit communities. Every one is all smiles again, seeing huge herds walk by within sight of the town. This morning, a caribou dodged my truck and hurried off to join its family of hundreds, grazing on the abundant grasses around Great Whale. The story was the same for Chisasibi, who had to deal mainly with the increasing traffic of hunters out to take part in a tradition that sustains us as a people, the cari-

beginning of regular annual visits by the





## Under the Northern Sky Mooshoom's snow scoop

by Xavier Kataquapit



enjoy carpentry, woodworking and construction. I like building things, renovating my home and learning how to use new tools. I like to think that I have a knack for figuring out building or construction problems on my own. It is a skill that has been passed down to me from generations of builders, survivors and craftsmen that had to learn to live on their own in the wilderness.

One of the first people I looked

up to as a carpenter was my Mooshoom, grandfather Xavier Paulmartin on my mother's side of the family. I can remember visiting him and his wife when I was very young. They lived down by the riverside in Attawapiskat close to the water's edge. They had a small plywood-covered home painted white. My grandparents made sure that it was well maintained, regularly painted and tidy. There was a large stockpile of clean split pine in front of their home. Nearby was a chopping block that was well used and surround-

ed by mounds of fresh bright pine chips and bark. Back in those days wood was still the main heat source.

A wide path between the front door and the woodpile led to a small shed next to the house. I recall when I stepped inside how organized everything was. All of his tools were stored

in their place: hung on the walls, set on shelving or kept in handmade wood box containers. The space had the scent of pine.

On one wall hung several Kwahpah-eh-kah-nah (snow shovels). These large, wooden scoops always captivated me. The biggest had a head about a foot around and featured a handle that was a foot long. There were three such scoops of varying sizes and each one had been carved from a solid piece of

> pine. I can remember thinking how much time, effort and skill it must have taken to carve them out.

Mooshoom died before I was 10 and I can recall that his little shed didn't change much for several years after he passed. Any time I had the chance to visit the shed I did so with Mooshoom on my mind. It almost seemed like he was around would be arriving any minute to start another project in the shed.

In the 1980s in Attawapiskat, didn't have running water in our homes so it was a normal thing in our lives to

have to gather drinking water. In the winter time, this meant either fetching water from a hole in the ice on the river, chopping blocks of ice from the heaving frozen shoreline or heading out along the many lakes and rivers nearby to fetch clean, fresh crystalline snow. Gathering snow for water was easier

and more convenient than any other means. Snow was easier to get, melted faster and provided cleaner water. I can remember going out on the land with Kookoom, my grandmother Louise, on her little Yamaha Bravo snow machine. It was her pride and joy and she used it to pull her wooden sleigh in treks out on the land into her 70s.

We never went far and she showed me how to seek out the high deep snowdrifts along a lake or river shoreline. Using Mooshoom's snow shovel in one hand, she demonstrated how to scrape away the top layer of snow to get at a middle section that was filled with pure white crystals. Over the years, like many people in the community, she had collected several bluecloth mailbags that were disposed of by Canada Post. They were large enough to carry a good amount of snow and small enough for us to lift and heave onto the sled.

As I grew older and stronger, Kookoom often gave me the task of going out on my own with her prized Yamaha Bravo and Mooshoom's handmade snow shovels. I usually filled three or four large bags as full as I could to ensure that Kookoom could make plenty of water. I always felt good handling Mooshoom's shovel. I felt like there was still part of him existing that I could connect with.

I don't know where Mooshoom's scoop eventually ended up. It was long gone by the time I left for high school in the south. However, I always felt comforted by the fact that I at least held onto to a piece of Mooshoom's memory for several years after he was gone. I miss Mooshoom and I miss his handiwork, as well as Kookoom and her teachings. Happily I have you the reader to thank for giving me the motivation to remember them again and to pass on a glimpse of their lives.

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